

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a heparin-induced, CNN-like protein (HICP) protein, comprising a nucleotide sequence at least about 60% 90% homologous to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having at least one of the following activities: i) inhibiting cell proliferation; ii) acting as a growth factor antagonist; iii) inhibiting growth in heparin responsive cells; iv) acting as a connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) agonist; or v) acting as a platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) agonist. or a complement thereof.

2. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a complement thereof.

3. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, further comprising nucleotides 1-883 of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, further comprising nucleotides 1534-1708 of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof.

6. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, further comprising nucleotides 1-635 of SEQ ID NO:3.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which is capable of specifically hybridizing to ~~specifically detects~~ a HICP nucleic acid molecule. ~~relative to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-HICP protein.~~

8. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a HICP protein which comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 60% 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or a complement thereof, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a protein having at least one of the following activities: i) inhibiting cell proliferation; ii) acting as a growth factor antagonist; iii)

inhibiting growth in heparin responsive cells; iv) acting as a connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) agonist; or v) acting as a platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) agonist.

9. **(Original)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

10. **(Original)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a HICP protein, comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

11-12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment has ~~which is at least about 60% 90% homologous to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof, and encodes a polypeptide which has~~ at least one of the following activities:

- i) ~~it can modulate~~ inhibiting cell proliferation;
- ii) ~~it can modulate a growth factor signaling pathway~~ acting as a growth factor antagonist;
- iii) ~~it can~~ inhibiting growth in heparin responsive cells ~~modulate the activity of CTGF or PDGF; or~~
- iv) acting as a connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) agonist; or ~~modulate a heparin-induced response in a heparin-responsive cell~~
- v) acting as a platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) agonist.

14-15. **(Cancelled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which is antisense to the nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 1, 9, ~~11~~ or 13.

17. **(Original)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of claims 1, 8, 10, or 13.

18. **(Original)** The vector of claim 17, which is a recombinant expression vector.

19. **(Original)** A host cell containing the vector of claim 18.
20. **(Original)** A method for producing HICP protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 19 in a suitable medium until HICP protein is produced.
21. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, further comprising isolating HICP protein from the medium or the host cell.
- 22-47. **(Cancelled)**
48. **(Currently Amended)** A method for detecting the presence of HICP activity in a biological sample comprising contacting a biological sample with an agent capable of detecting an indicator of HICP activity such that the presence of HICP activity is detected in the biological sample, wherein the agent is a labeled nucleic acid probe capable of hybridizing to HICP mRNA.
- 49-57. **(Cancelled)**
58. **(Original)** A diagnostic assay for identifying a genetic alteration in a cell sample, the presence or absence of the genetic alteration characterized by at least one of (i) aberrant modification or mutation of a gene encoding a HICP protein, and (ii) mis-regulation of said gene or (iii) aberrant post-translational modification of a HICP protein.
59. **(Cancelled)**
60. **(Currently Amended)** The assay of claim 58, wherein detecting said alteration includes:
- a. providing a reagent comprising two diagnostic probes capable of hybridizing to HICP mRNA;
 - b. combining said reagent with nucleic acid of said cell sample; and
 - c. detecting, by amplification or lack of amplification of said cellular nucleic acid, the absence or existence of said alteration.
- 61-63. **(Cancelled)**